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CCNA Curricula Comparison

Comparing ACLs in CCNA Discovery and CCNA Exploration

At-A-Glance

The Cisco® CCNA® Discovery and CCNA Exploration curricula use different methodologies to teach the same core concepts. Each curriculum targets different student segments based on academic experience, skill levels, and goals. Both curricula include embedded e-doing activities that stimulate learning and improve knowledge retention, and both curricula prepare students for the CCNA certification exam.

The chart at the right provides an example of how a common networking topic, access control lists (ACLs), is covered in CCNA Discovery versus CCNA Exploration. This comparison helps demonstrate differences in the instructional approach and course content for each curriculum.

For more information

Cisco Networking Academy Program:
www.cisco.com/go/netacad

Networking Academy Course Catalog:
www.cisco.com/go/netacadcourses

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www.cisco.com/go/academylocator

ACLs in CCNA Discovery and CCNA Exploration		
Topic Objectives	Both curricula provide a good introduction to access control lists, including standard, extended and named ACLs and wildcard masking. Students who complete the curricula will be able to: · Describe the purpose and types of access control lists (ACLs) · Configure and apply ACLs based on network filtering requirements · Configure and apply ACLs to limit telnet and SSH access to the router · Verify, monitor, and troubleshoot ACLs in a network environment	
	CCNA Discovery	**CCNA Exploration**
Topic List	· What are ACLs · Types and usage of ACLs · Traffic filtering · ACL process · Placing ACLs · ACL configuration · ACL wildcard mask · Application of ACL · Troubleshooting ACLs · *Effects of NAT and PAT on ACL placement and inter-VLAN routing* · *ACLs with inter-VLAN routing*	· What are ACLs · Types and usage of ACLs · Traffic filtering · ACL process · Placing ACLs · ACL configuration · ACL wildcard mask · Application of ACL · Troubleshooting ACLs · *Complex ACLs* – *Dynamic ACLs* – *Reflexive ACLs* – *Time-based ACLs*
Topic Depth	Covers the placement of access control lists such as NAT/PAT and inter-VLAN using easy to follow procedures Uses activities to illustrate permit or deny based on ACL statements	Covers more advanced and complex ACLs such as dynamic, reflexive, and timed-based ACLs Uses additional content to explain wildcard masking concepts
Instructional Approach	Explains ACLs using simple language in a concise, direct manner that works well for learners at all levels, including introductory level and less experienced learners Uses animation to show the ACL process More interactive activities are embedded in the curriculum to break up reading of the content and reinforce understanding of concepts.	Discusses ACLs in greater depth with more details and theory for experienced learners with advanced problem-solving and analytical skills Uses a flow chart to show the ACL process Interactive activities are embedded in the curriculum and additional content provides clarity on deeper, theoretical concepts.
Labs	Progresses from structured, easy to follow labs to help students develop and practice understanding to more challenging tasks that build critical thinking and decision-making skills Provides more labs for additional hands-on practice time	Includes advanced labs that that build critical thinking and decision-making skills, and encourage exploration and research Additional resources may be needed by students to derive final solutions for the labs

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